Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders



Purpose

Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders (CCUSO) provides secure, long term, highly structured inpatient treatment for violent sexual predators who have served their prison terms but in a separate civil trial have been found likely to commit further violent sexual offenses. CCUSO had 98 patients in-house as of June 30, 2015.

Who Is Helped

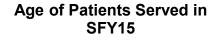
CCUSO provides secure treatment services to individuals who have been committed by the court for treatment purposes.

The department may not deny a court-ordered admission.

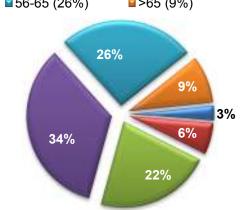
Annual court reviews of each individual's progress are required to determine if the commitment will continue.

All patients are male. There are 98 men residing in CCUSO as of June 2015. In SFY15 there were 8 admissions. Ages range from 20 to 81 with the average age of 50.4.

The average patient has one or more chronic medical conditions and is on several prescribed medications.







- ✓ There are 21 states with inpatient treatment programs like CCUSO. One state operates as an outpatient treatment program for committed sexually violent offenders.
- ✓ Courts have determined that treatment programs like CCUSO are constitutional if they provide treatment services.

Services

CCUSO has a five-phase treatment program that includes groups and individual therapy, educational programming, physiological assessments, and a transition program that:

- Assists individuals in developing cognitive and behavioral skills so their core needs can be met without sexual offending.
- Provides treatment based on the Risk-Need-Responsivity model.
- Measures progress using an 8-point scale in 10 treatment areas.
- Measure progress through structured risk assessments tools, psychological evaluations and various physiological measures of sexual deviancy and interest.

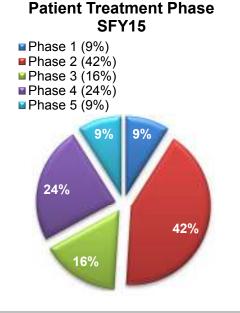
*Number served includes any individual served in the facility at any point during the SFY.

Prior to discharge, the court has the option to place a patient in transitional release, Phase 5. Patients begin to live and work more independently with the goal of eventually residing in the community. CCUSO staff maintain involvement with patients providing supervision, treatment and assessment as patients begin developing connections with community providers.

Patients are discharged only after the court has determined the patient is ready to reside in the community. However, patients can be discharged at any point in treatment, once the court has determined the patient no longer meets the legal criteria for commitment.

Since the program began in 1999 and through June 30, 2015, 30 patients have left CCUSO:

- 22 released when court determined no longer met commitment criteria
- 8 died



- ✓ In addition to an annual court evaluation, each patient receives a progress evaluation every 90 days, an assessment of participation and treatment engagement after each group therapy session, and periodic risk assessments, including risk of sexual acting out, suicide, and assault.
- ✓ Each medical appointment or stay at the University of Iowa necessitates at least two CCUSO staff to travel with the patient for safety purposes. This takes staff "off line" for that period of time. In SFY15 there were 134 such visits.
- √ 77 percent (102.5 FTEs) of the staff are direct care, 17 percent (22.5 FTEs) are
 professional and treatment professionals, 6 percent (7.5 FTEs) are
 administrative/support.
- ✓ In SFY16, 82.7 percent of the CCUSO operating budget is for staffing costs.
- ✓ The SFY17 budget requests assume a modest increase in overall in-house census. Staying within this modest estimated census growth will require that the number of discharges from the program must nearly equal the number of new admissions. Given the uncertainties in accurately projecting court decisions both into and out of CCUSO, this cannot be guaranteed. If the in-house census rises more quickly than what is budgeted for, additional funding will be needed to hire more security staff for daily monitoring and supervision to keep the program safe for patients and staff and to meet the constitutional treatment requirements.

Goals & Strategies

Goal: Effectively Manage Resources Strategy:

- Provide effective treatment allowing patients to meet discharge criteria.
- Avoid restraints for behavior management.

Results in SFY15:

- As of June 30, 2015, there were 10 patients in transitional release, and eight patients in release with supervision.
- 31 seconds of restraint is used per 1,000 hours of inpatient hours.
- ✓ CCUSO emphasizes work skills and employment as a key treatment modality.

Legal Basis

State:

- Iowa Code, Chapter 229A
- Iowa Administrative Code, 441 IAC 31